

died, 10,000 innocent Afghans and Iraqis have been killed for the cause of their so-called liberation. Many, many more of our own troops have been harmed and will always be living with the results of their injuries.

The time is now. The time is to stop building machines that can kill more efficiently and start bringing our troops home.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S AMERICAN JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNNELEE. Madam Speaker, we continue to suffer from an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, and America saw zero job growth in the month of August. Our Nation has a jobs crisis. So why is the Obama administration making it so difficult to create jobs?

Not only do we have a jobs crisis, but we also have a debt crisis. These two things are interconnected, and we certainly should not make one worse while making the other better.

The President has outlined his \$447 billion jobs plan, and it's essentially stimulus number two. It's the same recycled ideas that clearly didn't work from the last \$800 billion stimulus. At the same time, the President wants to pay for his plan with \$1.5 trillion in new taxes.

It's estimated that small business owners would pay over half the taxes raised under this proposal, ultimately hitting our employers the hardest and creating an even worse environment for private sector job growth.

Tax increases destroy jobs. They're not an option.

Now, there are some issues we agree on. For example, infrastructure funding. That's an appropriate function of government. It's something we could do to boost a sagging economy. But the problem is mistrust. With the President's first stimulus, little went to actual infrastructure development.

Now, we agree that we must move forward on the three free trade agreements. By passing those agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea we'll increase competitiveness of American manufacturers and have an increase of 250,000 American jobs.

While we can find common ground on a few things, the President continues to show reluctance on impacting entitlement program solvency. His proposal seeks to strengthen the independent advisory board which was created by ObamaCare. This board of unelected bureaucrats was given way too much authority in the first place to determine what benefits are covered and how much physicians are paid.

The best way to control costs in Medicare is to increase choice and competition, not by empowering a group of unelected bureaucrats.

The Obama administration has created a triple threat of out-of-control

spending, excessive regulations, and higher taxes. And these three things have resulted in an environment that has destroyed the confidence and prevented job creators from hiring.

Washington must create an environment favorable to job creation and focus on removing this triple threat. First, we must continue to fight to rein in Washington's unrestrained spending.

This fall, the Congress will deal with a balanced budget agreement which would finally force Washington to live within its means and do what families, businesses, and local and State governments are already required to do, and that is balance their budgets.

We must focus on regulatory relief. Just recently the House passed a bill that would prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from dictating where an employer can and cannot locate jobs in the United States. Employers need to be allowed to invest in the State that offers the best economic climate for job creation.

This week we're going to vote on the TRAIN Act.

The Obama EPA has imposed unnecessary and burdensome regulations on businesses, and we want to determine how those regulations affect electricity prices, fuel prices, and unemployment.

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The TRAIN Act will help uncover exactly how much the EPA is costing Mississippi consumers, farmers, small businesses, and State and local governments. These are just a few examples of the frustrating regulations that have come out of the Obama administration.

Lastly, we must concentrate on tax reform. The Joint Select Committee has the opportunity to lay the foundation for fundamental tax reform, but they must not enact tax increases. The American people don't need or want more solutions from the Federal Government. They want the Federal Government to get out of their way.

By tackling our spending problem, by removing excess regulations and by guaranteeing that taxes will not increase, we will unleash the American economy and give businesses the confidence they need to grow and create jobs.

POVERTY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. As founder of the congressional Out of Poverty Caucus, I rise today to continue sounding the alarm about the tide of poverty sweeping across this country.

Last week, the United States Census Bureau released its annual report, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010. It revealed a disturbing but unsurprising spike in the poverty rate—from 14.3 percent in 2009 to a staggering 15.1 percent in 2010.

In 2010, 46 million people lived in poverty in America. That is essentially

the populations of California and Michigan combined who are living in poverty in America. It's really a moral outrage that in the richest country in the world so many Americans are facing or are living in poverty, lacking economic opportunity and economic security.

Shamefully, our children bear the greatest burden. In 2010, 22 percent, or one in five children, lived in poverty. That's in America. Poverty continues to hit communities of color much harder, as the facts show. In 2010, the poverty rate for whites rose to 9.9 percent. The poverty rate for African Americans rose to 27.4 percent. The poverty rate for Latinos rose to 26.6 percent. For Asian Pacific Americans, the 2010 poverty rate of 12.1 percent remained the same.

This massive poverty crisis we are facing didn't happen overnight. Poverty rates began to rise during the Bush administration as 8 years of failed economic policy wiped out all of the gains made during the Clinton years. The coauthors of the Out of Poverty Caucus saw this day coming, and while little attention has been placed on the poor, we are determined to prick the conscience of this Congress and to act to stem the tide of poverty across America.

The members of the congressional Out of Poverty Caucus sent a letter asking the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, more commonly known as the supercommittee, to stay in line with prior deficit reduction agreements of the past by not cutting programs that provide basic human services—the safety net. Of course, now more and more Americans need this safety net. We must not balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable. Unfortunately, now middle-income people are falling into the ranks of the poor. As many of us know, millions of people are just one paycheck away from poverty.

We really can turn the tide on poverty. The solution to boosting this stagnating economy, reducing our long-term deficits, and lifting Americans out of the crisis of poverty is really the same. We must invest in creating more stable, living wage jobs. In fact, the most effective anti-poverty program is an effective jobs program. That is why Congress must immediately pass the President's American Jobs Act to begin the work of creating jobs, reducing poverty, and jump-starting our economy.

Poverty rates have increased in rural and urban communities throughout the country. The American Dream has turned into a nightmare for millions. This is a crisis, but we must turn the tide, and we must start today. So I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop playing politics and to act on jobs now. We can and we must act urgently to turn the tide of poverty sweeping across the Nation—a tide, really, that knows no party affiliation.